

# Reduce, Reuse & Recycle

Most of the waste humans produce ends up in landfills, which are rapidly filling up. Building more landfills can cause pollution, more truck traffic, and take away wildlife habitat. The Chula Vista Nature Center is working hard to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to the landfill.

You and your family can help by following the "Three R's":



**Reducing** what you bring to the Nature Center...

**Reusing** everything that can be taken home and reused, and

**Recycling**, all possible recyclable materials at the Nature Center and at home.

Take this short quiz to see how you have done your "Three R's" part on this trip; use it as a reminder to help you include the "Three R's" in your next outing.

Think about the things you brought especially for this visit to the Chula Vista Nature Center and threw (or will throw) in the trashcan:

- What could have been left at home? \_\_\_\_\_
- What could have been taken home to be reused? \_\_\_\_\_
- What throwaway items could have been replaced (before you came to the Nature Center) by reusable or recyclable items? \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks for practicing the "Three R's." The activities below and on the other side of this page will help you learn more about how nature recycles and how you can help.

## Nature Recyclers

There are some pretty cool natural recyclers! Did you know that earthworms recycle soil by digesting it, breaking down organic matter, and releasing nutrients? One earthworm can recycle 36 TONS of soil in one year!



Match the following nature recycler with what it recycles.

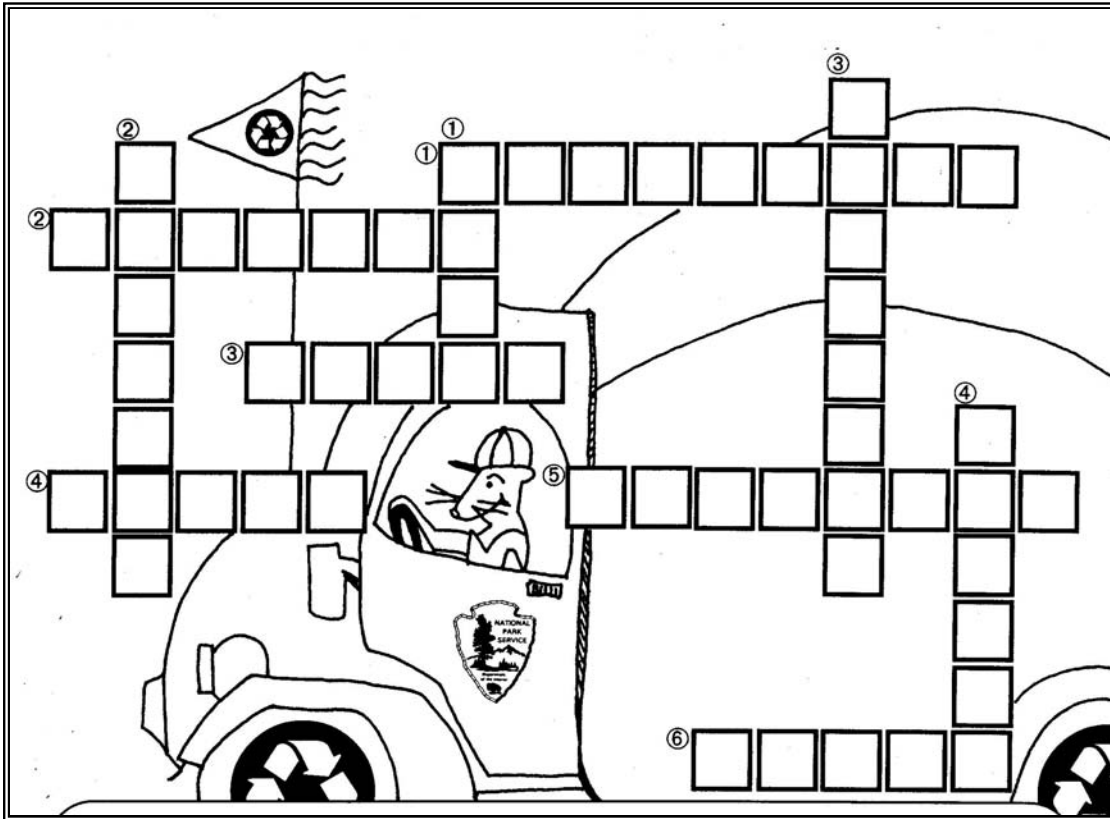
### Nature Recycler

1. Fungus
2. Fungus beetle
3. Trees and plants
4. Bird
5. Mouse
6. Earthworm
7. Condor

### Recycles:

- a. Grasses, weeds, and other nesting material
- b. Mushrooms (a slimy creature loves to eat and recycle these!)
- c. Dead animal (carcass)
- d. Soil
- e. A dead tree
- f. Air (AAH! Breathe in that fresh, recycled air!)
- g. Gnawed black-tailed deer antlers (Someone's getting their calcium!)

# Recycling for Wildlife and Habitat Crossword Puzzle



Word List: **aluminum**      **natural**      **water**      **landfills**      **glass**  
**pollutes**      **garbage**      **reuse**      **less**      **reduce**

## Across:

1. If we keep throwing away trash, we'll need to build more \_\_\_\_\_ which can smell and look bad, cause pollution, and take away wildlife habitat.
2. The average American produces about 4 pounds of \_\_\_\_\_ daily.
3. Recycled \_\_\_\_\_ requires 50% less water than making new glass.
4. When we recycle newspapers, we save \_\_\_\_\_ used in production, and that means cleaner air and habitat for birds and fish.
5. Dumping oil and waste into storm water drains instead of recycling \_\_\_\_\_ our streams and bays.
6. Bring your school lunch and picnic lunches in containers you can wash and \_\_\_\_\_, instead of throw-away.

## Down:

1. Use products with \_\_\_\_\_ packaging, which means less waste.
2. Using recycled products, instead of making new ones, helps to save our \_\_\_\_\_ resources.
3. It takes 20 times more energy to produce an \_\_\_\_\_ can from raw materials than from recycled materials. Recycled cans save energy and money and conserve habitat.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ the amount of paper you use by writing on both sides.

***Hike, explore, picnic, and RECYCLE!***

